642 The original Caribs acknowledged no form of government, and all were equal; thus, doubtless through atavism, they do not have all the respect they should for the native chief whom British authority gave them, while leaving them their autonomy. Our first visit was
643 to this chief, whom locally they call the king of the Caribs. In examining the first page of the Carib Reserve Dominica Land Register, one finds: No. 1 Corriette Jules Benjamin, Carib Chief; born 1853; Father: Benjamin Jules; Mother: Marie Ann Fanchine; /No children/ Corriette is a man who looks younger than the date of his birth would indicate; he is typical of his race and has gray moustaches; he is unfortunately dressed in European clothes, which deprives him of (ce qui lui enleve tout cachet) any style. This chief has not set a good example of conservation of the race in marrying a black woman by whom he has moreover had no children. He has adopted a young black mestizo Carib, who lives under his roof together with his elder sister.

217 The Carib chief keeps several registers in English which he
692 allowed us to consult at leisure. One of these registers is the Register of Justice, where all misdemeanors are entered. In simple cases the chief gives judgment himself; here is an example: "The /141/ 8th of March 1914, Annesty Lochat came to tell me that Meamie Alenas had opened the door of her house and had stolen a drinking glass and I settled the matter." In more serious cases, the chief refers them to British courts, as witness the following case: "The 4th of December 1912, Tewar presented himself to me, and told me that Bay Bay had killed his pig in his yard, although the animal had done no harm and without Bay Bay having warned him. I could not settle the controversy; I therefore sent them both before the magistrate." According
[674] to the ancient writers, the Caribs were trusting and hospitable and their houses stood always open; they did not know theft until the arrival of the Europeans, and when they missed something, they said that "the Christians had come to their houses." One can see from what has been said that they put themselves on a level with their
217 conquerors. A Register of the Civil State (1) is also kept. The

1. This register mentions not only the Caribs of pure stock, but also mestizos; it therefore is concerned with the entire present population of the Carib territory.

The register of births includes, from the first of January, 1917, to March, 1920, 70 births, of which only 38 are legitimate, with an equal number of children of each sex. The register of deaths mentions in the same lapse of time 48 deaths, caused by the following illnesses, whose diagnosis is perhaps slightly capricious.

Dysentery	15	Disorders of the heart	1
Fever	13	" of the blood	1
Pleurisy	4	Accidents	3
Sunstroke	2	Stillborn or dead	
Bronchitis	1	shortly after birth	8

These deaths are distributed as follows according to age:

	Masculine	Feminine		Masculine	Feminine
Up to 3	14	11	From 15 to 50	12	3
From 3 to 15	2	3	Over 50	0	3

The three women who died above the age of fifty were respectively 80, 87, and 89 years old, and in examining the last figures in the chart one notes that longevity is greater in the feminine sex than in the masculine.

/142/ Incestuous marriages are still frequent; they were the rule formerly; "fathers," according to Father Dutertre, "married their daughters, mothers, their sons, and the same man married two sisters or the mother and the daughter. Women married at the age of seventeen or eighteen, but they are nubile younger and often have children before this age. Formerly polygamy was general and the Caribs had as many as seven wives, not counting those whom they married on each island where they went often. Now that the Caribs profess, at least nominally, the Catholic faith, a man has only one legitimate wife; it is true that he adds as many concubines as his fortune permits him to have. Children are generally numerous; there are 8 or 9 on the average and up to 14; the number of stillbirths and the infant mortality is 11.4 per 100.

Religious ideas, according to all the ancient travellers, were very little developed among the Caribs of the Antilles and consisted simply of a vague belief in a good and an evil principle, which they called manitou, but they had no word to denote God or a superior Spirit.